

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided as follows and supersedes all previous claim lists.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of aligning items within an electronic document using relative tab stops, each item being associated with one of the relative tab stops, the method comprising:
 - a. determining the relative tab stop associated with the first item, the relative tab stop not representing an absolute location on a page;
 - b. positioning the first item within the electronic document on the relative tab stop associated with the first item; and,
 - c. for each further item:
 - i. determining the relative tab stop associated with the further item;
 - ii. positioning the item within the electronic document in accordance with the relative tab stop associated with the further item and the position of each previously positioned item associated with the same relative tab stop as the further item.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein any items with a relative tab stop greater than the tab stop of a previously positioned item are displaced from the previous item in a first direction.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein an item with no tab stop is displaced from the previous item in the first direction.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein any items having a relative tab stop less than the relative tab stop of a previously positioned item are displaced from the previous item in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein any items having a relative tab stop less than the relative tab stop of the previously positioned item are displaced from the previously positioned item in a third direction perpendicular to the first direction.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein any items having a relative tab stop equal to or greater than the relative tab stop of previously positioned items are aligned with the previously positioned items in the first direction.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein each item has a predetermined size, and wherein the method comprises positioning each item so as to ensure that a predetermined distance exists between items in the first direction.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein each relative tab stop includes at least one of first and second relative tab values, each relative tab value representing the relative tab position of a specific portion of the item.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the first and second relative tab values are start and stop tab values indicating the relative position of the start and end of the item within the document.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the items are positioned in the first direction in accordance with the relative tab stop, and wherein the method comprises adjusting the relative positioning of the tab stop values to maintain at least a minimum separation between the items.
11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for aligning items within a document, the apparatus including a display for displaying the document; and, a processor, the processor being adapted to perform a method comprising:
 - a. determine the relative tab stop of the first item, the relative tab stop not

representing an absolute location on a page;

- b. position the first item within the document, on the determined relative tab stop; and,
- c. for each further item:
 - i. determine the relative tab stop of the item;
 - ii. position the item within the electronic document in accordance with the relative tab stop and the position of each previously positioned item having the same relative tab stop.

12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 11, the apparatus further comprising a store for storing the relative tab stops of each of the items to be positioned, the processor being adapted to operate with the store to obtain the relative tab stops therefrom.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 11, the apparatus further comprising an input device, the input device being adapted to cooperate with the processor to allow the user to enter tab stop values for each item to be defined.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a computer-usable medium having a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a process for aligning items within an electronic document, each item having a relative tab stop, the process comprising:

- a. determining the relative tab stop of the first item, the relative tab stop not representing an absolute location on a page;
- b. positioning the first item within the electronic document; and,
- c. for each further item:
 - i. determining the relative tab stop of the item;
 - ii. positioning the item within the electronic document in accordance with the relative tab stop and the position of each previously positioned item having the same relative tab stop.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 14, wherein any items with a relative tab stop greater than the tab indication of a previously positioned item are displaced from the previous item in a first direction.
16. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 15, wherein an item with no tab stop is displaced from the previous item in the first direction.
17. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 15, wherein any items having a relative tab stop less than the relative tab stop of a previously positioned item are displaced from the previous item in a second direction opposite to the first direction.
18. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 15, wherein any items having a relative tab stop less than the relative tab stop of the previously positioned item are displaced from the previously positioned item in a third direction perpendicular to the first direction.
19. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 15, wherein any items having a relative tab stop equal to or greater than the relative tab stop of previously positioned items are aligned with the previously positioned items in the first direction.
20. (Original) A computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the items have a predetermined size, and wherein the process comprises positioning each of the items so as to ensure that a predetermined distance exists between the items in the first direction.
21. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the items are positioned in the first direction in accordance with the relative tab stop, and wherein the process comprises adjusting the relative positioning of the tab indication values to maintain at least a minimum separation between the items.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 14, wherein each relative tab stop includes at least one of first and second relative tab values, each relative tab value representing the relative tab position of a specific portion of the item.

23. (Original) A computer program product according to claim 22, wherein the first and second relative tab values are start and stop tab values indicating the relative position of the start and end of the item within the document.